

**November 8, 2017**

**TO: The Honorable Lamar Smith**

Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space and  
Technology  
2409 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**The Honorable Andy Biggs**

Chairman, House of Representatives Subcommittee on Environment  
1626 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**The Honorable Randy Weber**

Chairman, House of Representatives Subcommittee on Energy  
1708 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**CC: The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson**

**The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici**

**The Honorable Marc Veasey**

Dear Chairman Smith, Chairman Biggs and Chairman Weber,

A hearing on geoengineering co-convened by the House SS&T Subcommittees on Energy and Environment is scheduled for November 8, 2017.

Anthropogenic climate change is a problem requiring swift and effective response, including by the U.S. government. The primary and essential elements of such an effective response are measures to sharply cut emissions of greenhouse gases, and measures to adapt to unavoidable climate changes.

Geoengineering is not a silver bullet, and treating it as one could greatly increase already severe climate change risks. We agree with the conclusions of the 2015 U.S. National Research Council reports (NRC 2015: 192) on Climate Intervention which, while recommending careful and accountable research, emphasize “there is no substitute for dramatic reductions in CO2 emissions to mitigate the negative consequences of climate change at the lowest probability of risk to humanity.”

While further research could help address questions about the proposed technologies' efficacy, risks, and cost-effectiveness, we already know that geoengineering, including solar radiation management and carbon dioxide removal approaches, can at best be a supplement to reducing sources of greenhouse gas emissions and increasing our ability to cope with the effects of climate change.

Any consideration of a Federally funded and coordinated research program into geoengineering must be in the context of a strategic portfolio of responses to climate change, which leads with climate science, mitigation and adaptation.

Sincerely,

**Thomas Ackerman, Ph.D.**

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Director of the Joint Institute for the Study  
of the Atmosphere and Ocean (JISAO)  
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Director of Science and Policy  
Chief Climate Scientist  
Union of Concerned Scientists

**Thomas Armstrong, Ph.D.**

President, Madison River Group  
Former Executive Director  
U.S. Global Change Research Program

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Director at Large  
Lawrence Livermore National  
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**Frank Loy**

(retired) Former Under Secretary of  
State for Global Affairs,  
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Chief Scientist, Climate Institute  
Former Executive Director  
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